

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2021

Online Zoom meeting

6:30 PM

Members present: Waynes Barnes, James Boyd (Secretary), John Carney, Ernie Germani, Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Kelsey Queenan and Cheryl Vieira

Members absent: Patrick Hanner (City Liaison)

Public Attendees: None

A. Call to Order: Chairman Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.

B. Review and Action of Meeting Minutes: The May 18, 2021 meeting minutes were approved with corrections by the Commission following a motion to approve by E. Germani and seconded by C. Vieira.

C. Public Comment: None

D. Planning Department Update: To be provided next meeting.

E. Correspondence: None

F. New Business:

1. Summer meeting schedule - The Commission discussed and decided to meet for the summer as follows:
 - July 20 - meet at Boyden Heights Conservation Area for boardwalk and trail maintenance;
 - August - no meeting; and
 - September 21 - regular meeting
2. E. Germani noted that Mayor DaSilva is interested in developing a video series to promote East Providence parks and trails and City open space.

G. Old Business

1. Newman Crossing trailhead: J. Boyd has spoken with a member of the Seekonk Land Trust and will work to organize a meeting between the East Providence and Seekonk conservation groups to further explore collaboration and possible development of the trailhead to connect with existing trails along Central Pond and the Gamino Pond Conservation Area in Seekonk.

H. Commission Member Items

- E. Germani reported that the planned TNC walking path along the Ten Mile River at Agawam Hunt Club property has been delayed by COVID and permitting issues. He also reported that he would be leading a hike at Gamino Pond in Seekonk on Sunday, June 20 at 09:00.
- J. Carney reported that he recently trimmed shrubs that were obstructing passage along the trail and boardwalk at the northern end of Willet Pond.
- K. Queenan suggested the placement of a sign at the recently constructed boardwalk along the Gazebo Trail at Hunt's Mill that would alert trail users that the boardwalk was "constructed by the East Providence Conservation Commission" or some other similar language. She also suggested establishing a City composting program and would research the idea more and report back to the Commission.
- Chair K. Gonsalves noted that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council had a successful June 12 event on Central Pond to remove invasive European water chestnuts (*Trapa natans*). And, the RIDEM is planning similar events for Turner Reservoir this summer.

I. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:27 P.M.

In lieu of a regularly scheduled meeting for July the Conservation Commission will meet at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area on **Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** to conduct maintenance on the boardwalk overlooking the tidal pond and marsh.

Respectfully submitted,
James Boyd, Secretary